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Triple Play

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The University of Dayton is scoring a nifty hat trick this fall, welcoming three sets of triplets in its first-year class.

Early indications are that the triplets and their families are delighted with the rare event – and looking forward to getting to know each other.

"It will be cool to share something with other triplets," said Nico Avila-John, one of the Dayton-area triplets.

All three sets have strong ties to the University. The Dvorskys come from a family where both parents and many extended family members are Flyer Faithful. The mother of the Pontarellis is a graduate. And the mother of the Avila-Johns teaches at the University.

Here's the line-up:

Nico, Lucas and Alan Avila-John, from Bellbrook, Ohio, are the sons of Karin Avila-John and Jeffery John. They're at home on the University of Dayton campus because Karin is academic coordinator of the University's Intensive English Program. Although Jeffery teaches at Wright State University, one triplet strongly wanted to be a Flyer and the other two followed, said Mrs. Avila-John.

Paige, Jack and Matt Pontarelli, from Glenview, Ill. near Chicago, are the children of Alison and the late Daniel J. Pontarelli. Alison, a 1982 psychology graduate, renewed her ties to the University at her 25th reunion a few years ago and convinced daughter Paige to take a look. "Once she visited, she was sold and she thought the boys would really like it too," she said.

Jared, Katelyn and Courtney Dvorsky, from Mason, Ohio, near Cincinnati, are the children of Trese, a 1981 accounting graduate, and Richard Dvorsky, a 1982 mechanical engineering alumnus. The extended Dvorsky family is loaded with alumni, so the triplets heard about the University from a very early age, Mrs. Dvorsky said. "They were all looking at different schools, because they all wanted their own experience," she said, but all three decided on the University after campus visits and meeting with faculty.

The nine triplets have had enough togetherness when it comes to sharing rooms. All nine have different roommates, and some are even in different residence halls. The Dvorsky girls were initially placed in the same room, but quickly had that changed, said Mrs. Dvorsky.

For the triplets, although they're looking forward to an environment where they are not known first and foremost as "one of the triplets," at least one said he's happy his siblings will be around to share the college experience.

"We'll all be doing different things," said Nico Avila-John. "But it's kind of comforting to know that they will be around to share some of that."

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